

## Milford Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes July 10, 2014

7:00 BOS Meeting Room

**PRESENT: Members:** Audrey Fraizer, Chair; Andy Hughes, V Chair; Andy Seale, Becky Lorette, Hub Seward. **Alternate members:** Greg Boggis, Rodney Dellafelice, Chris Costantino. **EXCUSED:** Janet Urquhart and Kim Rimalover.

**Guests:** Emma Carcagno and Amanda Stone from the UNH Cooperative Extension Service.

**Public:** Eric Radloff, prospective member. Suzanne Fournier and Tom Gardiner – Brox Environmental Citizens

**Approval of June meeting minutes:** approved unanimously on a motion by ASeale, seconded by AHughes.

**Appointment: 7:15 -** Natural Resource Inventory Presentation by Emma Carcagno and Amanda Stone from the UNH Cooperative Extension Service (UNH CES).

- ECarcagno and AStone are part of the Taking Action for Wildlife program which is a joint effort between UNH CES and the NH F&G to promote wildlife protection. They brought Habitat Stewardship brochures for us to distribute and we can get more if needed.
- Highest Ranked Habitat (HRH) map – the map displays areas in town which provide highly valued habitat for wildlife. It is based on aerial photography and is a guide for members to use when planning; it is a good tool to use for evaluation of conservation priorities. The data on the map needs to be field checked when we get down to the small acreages of a property NRI.
- Criteria used to determine HRH were:
  - Biological factors
  - Landscape factors – size and property location
  - Human impact – roads, dams, pollution, recreation use
- The Wildlife Action Plan maps are very coarse. The maps on GRANIT are at a better scale
- The WAP maps were last updated in 2010. They are due to be updated in 2015
- UNH CES will provide large format maps for us for public outreach events that we might like to host
- NRI
  - We need to consider what resources we value and what we have. Some towns may not have agricultural soils, for instance, so the few sources would be considered more valuable for protection than in another town. Typically the resources most valued are water, soil and wildlife. The collection of this information becomes a helpful database for environmental planning.
  - We could host a bio-blitz using the specialists to count what is out there – good public outreach
  - UNH CES has examples of NRIs on their website. They can help us with our process providing a checklist. ECarcagno will send a digital version of the hard copy information she brought to this presentation.
  - An NRI at the town level can probably be done using the maps available from GRANIT or WAP. It might be reasonable to have a specialist do an NRI at the parcel level to identify natural communities. It would probably take 2-3 months to gather the data and analyze it for a town-wide NRI. The town of Bath did their own NRI which took about a year. If we overlay the various maps, we can begin to get a good picture of the habitats and then field check at the parcel level.
  - AFraizer polled the members about doing an NRI at Brox
    - RDellafelice - would like to have a quote from professionals
    - HSeward – look at existing data to see if anything is missing. A professional may be able to pull together the information more quickly
    - GBoggis – same as HSeward. NRI will be labor intensive and we may need additional help
    - BLorette – hire a professional
    - ASeale – it would be good to have a neutral third party

- AHughes – Pine Barrens area should be checked out and protected. Look for key indicator species. (*My notes are vague here, Andy. Is this what you said?*)
- CCostantino – check with UNH CES to see what services they provide
- AFraizer – we should get a professional with depth of experience. The professional will be an advocate for us and can move more quickly than we can. (*again, AFraizer, have I captured what you said? I have jotted down what your thoughts were but am missing the context*)
- Review the commission budget next month to get an idea of what we can afford for an NRI

Item	Discussion	Who Will Do What
1. 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday hike	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rail Trail Hike was on June 28. There were about 15 people and we walked from Milford to Brookline, shuttling hikers back by car</li> <li>• July 26 Hike will be led by AHughes at Hitchiner.</li> <li>• May 2015 hike – have it on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday rather than the 4<sup>th</sup> which conflicts with Memorial Day weekend plans</li> </ul>	
2. Tucker Brook TF timber harvest	<p>AFraizer suggested changes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article II.18 – the Commission doesn't pay a yield tax to the town</li> <li>• Article II.22 – "That all hiking trails shall be left in the same or better condition as approved by the Forester and the Commission"</li> </ul>	CCostantino will send an email to Dan Reed with these suggested changes.
3. Armory Rd Rail Trail Crossing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For how long is the quote valid? Until the March 2015 vote for a warrant article?</li> <li>• Is there another way to make the crossing safer without a bridge? Will we learn this from the engineering study?</li> <li>• Check with other towns to see what they paid for engineering studies for their bridges</li> </ul>	CCostantino will get answers to the questions
4. Brox vernal pool in sand pit	The Commission would like to see boulders put around the vernal pool to designate the 25' buffer	CCostantino will contact DPW with this request
5. Hitchiner Town Forest	One of the picnic tables has been collapsed and needs to be repaired. We need to regulate access after dark. We should replace the gates which were at the end of Mullen Rd and at the access points for the south field and the Pavilion Field. We need keys for fire, police, DPW and the Commission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCostantino will get quotes for gates.</li> <li>• AHughes will investigate installing a camera there to capture inappropriate behavior.</li> </ul>
6. Beaver Flow devices on Rail Trail south of Melendy	The members decided to investigate the cost of hiring Skip Lyle of Beaver Deceivers International to help us manage the beaver activity on Compressor Brook south of Melendy Rd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCostantino will draft a Moose Plate Grant to cover the cost of this project</li> <li>• CCostantino will contact Skip Lyle of Beaver Deceivers, Intl.</li> </ul>
7. Milford Police Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFraizer met with Chief Viola to discuss vandalism and inappropriate behavior at the town forests and Brox. The Chief would like to have reports of vandalism to start tracking patterns</li> <li>• We could post signs that indicate Brox has multiuse trails and to use caution</li> </ul>	CCostantino will check with the Brookline CC which has posted multiuse trails at it rail trail kiosk

8. Work sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 24 to work on Chapter 1 of the Conservation Plan.</li> <li>• June 14: AHughes, AFraizer and CCostantino worked on the Mission statement. The proposed changes were reviewed by the other members. There was unanimous approval of a motion by ASeale, seconded by BLorette to accept the revised Mission Statement.</li> <li>• July 8 – AFraizer, AHughes and CCostantino met to work on the Overview Page of the Commission website. The members reviewed the changes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCostantino will post Chapter 1 with current member changes included in dropbox</li> <li>• CCostantino will post new mission statement on web and include in Chapter 1 Conservation Plan</li> <li>• CCostantino will post the amended version in dropbox for discussion</li> <li>• CCostantino will work on the Camping Permit bullet on the Overview page</li> </ul>
9. IDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Badger Hill – same comments as submitted previously</li> <li>• Nute (coffee shop on Powers Street) – no comment</li> <li>• Car Spot (Elm Street) – consider using pervious pavement in the parking area</li> </ul>	

**NonPublic session** to review and approve the minutes from the June NonPublic session. The members were unanimous to approve the motion by AHughes, seconded by RDellafelice to go into nonpublic session. The members were unanimous to approve the motion by BLorette, seconded by HSeward to accept the minutes of the June nonpublic session. The members unanimously approved the motion by ASeale, seconded by GBoggis to keep the minutes sealed. The member unanimously approved the motion by RDellafelice, seconded by AFraizer to come out of nonpublic session. .

**Next Regular Meeting – August 14, 2014 @ 7PM, Selectmen's Meeting Room.**